

### January 2011



### DO the people of Stockton Heath and Appleton want to have a say on major environmental improvements to be carried out later this year?

We hope so - but if previous attempts to get the public involved in local developments are anything to go by, it is doubtful.

Anyone who does want to contribute to the borough council's "Look of the Borough" initiative when it

arrives in Stockton Heath on March 21 and in Appleton in August, should attend Stockton Heath Parish Council on January 11 and the annual parish meeting at Appleton on April 19.

Lisa Doran, the project manager will be attending to outline the aims

# Friendly library staff praised

STAFF at Stockton Heath Library have won praise from members of the parish council. The council was told Warrington

Borough Council is consulting the public about proposed cuts to the library service, including the possibility of reducing opening hours at all libraries. But Coun Dorothy Robb praised Stockton Heath Library. She said: "The staff are so friendly

and helpful and they provide a range

of services and information." Coun Wendy Emsley was concerned that cutting opening hours would make it more difficult for children to study. She said: "Children use the library

to study. When they come from overcrowded homes this can be the only place where they can study. A widespread consultation on the future of the service is being carried out by the borough council including drop-in sessions at libraries and a details are available from the library website and libraries. and objectives of the scheme and it would be helpful if she was greeted by residents as well as members of the parish council

We are not holding our breath, however, for neither parish council meetings nor annual parish meetings are hardly famous for drawing the crowds.

These are really worth attending, however. The "Look of the Borough" programme involves a specialist team of borough council workers coming into the area to give rundown sites a facelift. Similar projects in other parts of the borough have proved highly successful - the more so when local residents have got involved.

So residents, particularly those willing to find fault with their areas where they live, should turn up to have their say.





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# Dancing Marys celebrate 197 years

# FRIENDSHIPS, hard work ... and dancing. That's the recipe for long life, according to Mary Powell and Mary Bartley.

And they should know, for on successive days they celebrated birthdays which took their combined ages to 197.

Mary Powell, of Appleton - who still drives and baked her own birthday cake - was 100 and birthday cake - was 100 and received a greeting from The Queen...

The following day, Mary Bartley, of Stockton Heath, celebrated her 97th birthday by going shopping in the village

Both are members of the Sandy Lane Friday Dance Club, which actually meets at the Methodist Hall in Walton Road, and the club threw a special party for its two oldest members

Organiser Joan Hilton said: "They are quite remarkable ladies. We have 67 members and I think all are over 70. But the two Marys are our oldest members.

The birthday cake at the party was baked by Mary Powell. But she also baked an "official"

cake for her actual birthday when she took family and friends out for a meal and for an "open day" she held for more friends at home

There were actually two cakes -one for 1910 and the other for 2010 - linked by a bridge so she actually made three cakes.

The two Marys, both now widows, have known each other for more than 60 years and at one time worked together. They have many happy memories

of life in the Warrington area including the time a Zeppelin flew over the town during the First World War

They kept active during the recent cold spell by clearing the snow from around their homes. On the secret of a long life, both

are agreed that hard work never

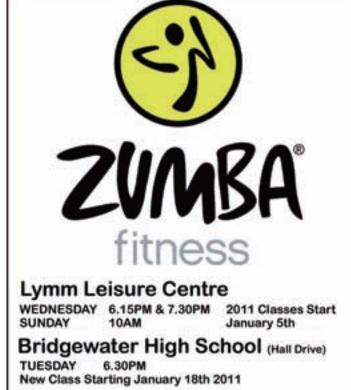
killed anyone. Mary Powell said: "I've done all sort of things from running a shop to making my own furniture and gardening. Mary Bartley added: "You have to

keep active and take an interest in things. Too many people, when they retire, just stop doing things."

Main picture: Left, Mary Bartley aged 97 and Mary Powell aged 100.







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Sanderson ZOFFANY and many more!

# School kids dig in at Euclid Parl

from Bradshaw Primary School launched a revamp of Grappenhall's Euclid Park by planting the first new trees of the project. The Year 6 pupils worked with staff

from The Mersey Forest to plant hazel trom The Mersey Forest to plant hazel and beech trees, snowdrop and bluebell bulbs and an area of hedgerow as the first stage of an ambitious green makeover for the park taking place this winter. Coun Mike Biggin, chair of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council's executive board member for

Council's executive board member for climate change and public protection, said: "This is a great way to celebrate

National Tree Week. The new trees will help enhance the local environment for people and wildlife alike, and best of all they're just one example of the excellent work that is happening all year round to brighten

The plans for the new-look Euclid Park received a thumbs up from local residents at a recent open day at the park, and a consultation questionnaire received dozens of

Jo Sayers from The Mersey Forest said: "It's been fantastic to see how much people care about their local green spaces. We're now looking forward to a busy winter at the park

with new paths, orchard trees, picnic benches and play areas made from natural, materials all being put in place Funding for the project was secured by Grappenhall and Thelwall

Parish Council and The Mersey Forest

through the Play programme.

Pathfinder

The project also coincided with the launch of The Big Tree Plant, the national tree planting campaign to encourage communities across the country to plant and care for trees.



# Street maps may be provided

STREET maps of Appleton, including Appleton Thorn, may soon be provided in two local bus shelters.

Frames have been provided in the two shelters on London Road, one at Owens Corner and the other at Dudlow Green Road.

Appleton Parish Council has agreed to purchase three laminated maps one to be kept in reserve - at a maximum cost of £264.

It is hoped the maps will have 'You Are Here' arrows to enable users to more easily use them.



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# Has Father Christmas brought you a proposal of marriage this year?

# If so, please read below for a couple of 'different ideas', which we can help with. We offer a wedding gift service - wedding guests ring us and 'gift' money towards your wedding or honeymoon package.

### Elephants in Thailand

If a bride wants to be delivered to her waiting groom on the back of an elephant, check out The Sarojin in Khao Lak. Its dedicated weddings team can sort out music, flowers, entertainment, hair and make-up, photography, videography, elephant or two! Luxury Wedding package at The Sacjin from £2,459. Anantara Golden Triangle in northern Thailand also has a Regal Elephant Wedding package.

Dolphins in the Bahamas Dolphin Encounters, based on Blue Lagoon Island, will tailor a wedding to a couple's wishes - they can be married in or out of the dolphin pool. Staying at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort will provide easy access to Dolphin Encounters.

#### Game drive in Shamwari Game Reserve

Weddings in Shamwari from £2,085, which includes the registrar, legal fees, licence and marriage certificate, plus the game drive and a private dinner. A more expensive option is Sir Richard Branson's private game reserve, Ulusaba. Priced at \$3,839 for a minimum three night stay, the package includes twice-daily games drives and unlimited champagne throughout the stay.

Tropical fish in the Maldives Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, with not one but two spas, where brides can preen themselves and there are plenty of fish on view in under-sea restaurant Ithaa. Vow renewals can take place in Ithaa which is unique because it's the world's first all-glass, under-sea restaurant. Packages can include spa treatments, wedding cake, a sunset cruise and gourmet dinner.

### Penguins on Boulders Beach

Couples are driven to the beach in a limousine, where they swap vows before lining up some classic 'black and white' shots with the penguins. These are known as Boulders Beach weddings for £1,029 which includes beach entrance fees. We would recommend checking into the nearby Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa.

### Mickey in Florida

The big-eared, big-hearted rodent will make a 30 minute appearance at a Walt Disney World Wedding for an extra £500. However, it is not possible to have him present for the vows. Make sure you request Mickey's presence at the wedding when you book the package. Disney weddings are bookable through us

### Europe

Europe New for 2011 wedding packages at a former 17th century monastery in Cyprus. The Ayii Anargyri Natural Healing Spa Resort is situated in the picturesque Nerades Valley, a 20 minute drive from

Latchi. While the old monastery church is available only for Greek Orthodox weddings. Also new for next year will be yacht weddings in Santorini and beach weddings at a trio of Limassol resorts, the Four Seasons, Le Meridien Limassol Spa & Resort and the all-inclusive St Raphael Resort.

New this year; Le Meridien Limassol Spa & Resort are offering barefoot weddings on the beach. They are proving popular because an abundance of public beaches in Cyprus and Greece meant that few hotels would arrange a ceremony on the sand by the water's edge. Next year; the quaint chapel of St Sotiris, which is 600 years old, will form the backdrop for ceremonies taking place on the beach at Lindos on Rhodes.

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturdays 9am to 4pm. If you cannot make these times we are happy to arrange an appointment at your convenience. Alternatively email enquiries@island-villas.co.uk call or 01925 269400.



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# Philip is the World Cheese Champion!

# A FORMER Appleton farmer has become the World Cheese Champion.

Philip Stansfield's Cornish Blue was named as the best cheese variety in the world at the World Cheese Championships in Birmingham - the first British variety in a decade to be named as the world's best.

The 53-year-old son of Appleton parish councillor Mike Stansfield won the title in competition with 2,600 cheeses from 26 countries. He said: "I'm stunned and

overwhelmed. They say this could double the size of our business so this really is fantastic news." Philip moved down to Cornwall

some years ago when he found dairy farming in Appleton was becoming unviable.

He created Cornish Blue nine years ago in an attempt to diversify on his dairy farm near Liskeard.

It'is a soft blue cheese similar to Italian Cambozola.

He said: "We were struggling to produce milk profitably so I thought this might be a way of ensuring our future.

"Now, we milk 200 cows and are ust about to increase that number to '300. Within the first two hours of winning the award and the news going online, we had  $\pounds1,000$  worth orders come through to our website.

The World Cheese Awards is the largest cheese competition in the world, judged in the initial stages by 150 expert buyers from every corner of the globe. It takes an entire day to judge and is held in public, with 100,000 consumers also trying the cheeses.

Philip believes the key to his success was a recent change in the rennet he uses, which allows the cheese to mature for longer.



# Swedish Bank is top in customer satisfaction poll

STAFF from local Warrington bank, Handelsbanken, are celebrating after the bank topped a national opinion poll for customer satisfaction for the second year running.

running. The survey of the UK banking sector by EPSI Rating is based on a pan European model already used to benchmark banks in 11 other countries, over 20 years. Professor Jan Eklof coordinator of the survey commented "This survey shows that customer satisfaction with

shows that customer satisfaction with Handelsbanken is significantly higher than the industry average and that the banks customers are also very loyal. This separates Handelsbankén from other specially analysed banks in the study and depicts results which are consistent with surveys undertaken in other countries."

Handelsbanken's decentralised approach allows them to adapt quickly to the requirements and wishes of its customers, with decision making being made locally by its branch managers. This may appear to be a simple proposition, but it is one that is proving successful for the Swedish ba'nk in the UK.

Handelsbanken, which employs 4

staff locally, was ranked top by both its business and personal customers in terms of satisfaction and for customer

loyalty. The survey follows record growth numbers in the UK by the bank, opening 21 branches during 2010 and the announcement of the opening of a third Regional Head Office in Birmingham to support further expansion in the UK banking market.

Dennis Evans, branch manager of Handelsbanken Warrington, said: "To be ranked top for the second year running in an independent customer satisfaction survey is of course very important for a relationship bank like ours. We have been running the bank according to the same principles for the last 40 years and it appears that our decentralised and customer orientated model is more appreciated now than ever. The fact that we don't have sales targets or bonus schemes in the branch allows us to focus on what really makes a service organisation like ourselves successful

in the long run, customer satisfaction." The Warrington branch was the 60th UK branch to open in 2009 and is now one of over 80 across England, Wales and Scotland.

# ndelsbanker



# From the classics to modern jazz

MUSIC from the Middle Ages, the great classics, gifted youngsters, modern jazz - Live at St Wilfrid's at Grappenhall has arranged a programme to

appeal to many tastes this year. The monthly concerts at St Wilfrid's Church in Grappenhall Village start on a high with locally raised international pianist Stephen Hough playing Beethoven, Janacek, Scriabin and Liszt on January 29. On February 17, the Barbirolli string quartet will play Beethoven, Bridge and

Delius. On March 10 there will be music from some of the winners of the internationally famous Haverhill Sinfonia competition. On April 16, Lucille Burns (flute) and Victoria Davies (harp) will present a sensitive programme of music by Handel, Faure and Piazzolla.

May 7 sees the annual visit by students from the Chetham's School of Music, giving an opportunity to see the stars of the future in action. June 16 will see the Manchester Camerata Brass Ensemble playing music from 1500 to the present

Manchester Camerato Brass Lister 4, 9 day. The pianist James Lisney makes a return visit on September 22 with a programme of works by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann and Chopin. On October 15 there will be a visit by the Kinder Choir of High Peak, senior children's choir winners at the Llangollen Eisteddfod. Live at St Wilfrid's end their year on November with a rare excursion into the jazz world with a second visit by 6Pack and vocalist Alice Zadwaski. All the concerts start at 7.30pm.

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January 11 STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL Sandy Lane Centre. 7.30pm

January 18 APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

January 29 ST WILFRID'S

International concert pianist Stephen Hough returns with a programme of Beethoven, Janacek, Scriabin and Liszt. St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Monday THE EVERGREENS Senior Citizen's Club Bellhouse Community Centre, Grappenhall. Details: 01925 261381

ST MARY MAGDALENE MONDAY CLUB 1.30pm FOLK DANCING CLUB St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath 8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

### BRIDGE CLUR

Grappenhall Village Sports Club Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233 LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 8pm. Details: 01925 264099

PARK (APPLETON) WI Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday WARRINGTON ART GROUP Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall. 7-9pm.

Every hird Monday STOCKTON HEATH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingle Way, Appleton. 8pm. Contact: Linda Pearson 01925 602803. NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY Cheshire District meeting Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road, Grappenhall. 8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday MARIFIELD WI Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

### Every Tuesday

COFFEE MORNING St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome. 10am-12 noon PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm. Contact: 01925 757582.

### Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month STOCKTON HEATH & DIS Ram's Head, Grappenhall.

Every Wednesday Lymm Afternoon Bridge Club Appleton Parish Hall. 1.15-4.15pm

Every first Wednesday

St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm First and third Wednesday each month NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath 8pm. Details: 01925 268311

Every third Wednesday HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall, 7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every Thursday THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. Details: 01925 753474.

BRIDGE CLUB Grappenhall Village Sports Club Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

Every second Thursday STRETTON WI Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.

Every third Thursday NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2pm Details: 01925 740419

Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane 2.15pm

Every Friday Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road 9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153



# Sole survivor's g

# A REMARKABLE story of survival from a wartime tragedy has emerged as a result of email correspondence between two women who have never met - one from Appleton and the other from Canada.

It was written by the late Pilot Officer Phillip ("Tim") Fussey, formerly a resident of the Summerville Nursing Home at Stockton Heath, as a letter to the daughter of a colleague who died when their aircraft was shot down over Germany on September 14, 1942. Tim Fussey was the sole survivor of

the crash and his moving story has come to light following an approach from Cathy Ker, of Ontario, whose second cousin, Pilot Officer Bobby

Cartmell, was piloting the aircraft. She was researching her family history and contacted Stockton Heath Parish Council when searching for Mr Fussey in the hope he might be able to tell her something about what happened the night the plane went down.

Sadly, Mr Fussey had died but she managed to contact his daughter,

Hilary Morphy, of Appleton. She had a handwritten copy of a letter her father had written years ago to Sue Dicks, the daughter of Sergeant Ron Dicks, flight engineer aboard the plane, who also died in the crash

The seven-strong crew of Stirling bomber Mark 1 R9166 had survived a direct hit a week previously, only just managing to get back to base



Pilot Officer Phillip ("Tim") Fussey

and crash-landing in dramatic style. This made them all feel "very Boy's Own Paperish" Tim Fussey wrote in his letter to Sue Dicks. "We were fireproof and "gether we could cope

with anything." The following are extracts from his letter

"It was a fine, clear moonlight night. We were doing the run up and I was moving into the Bomb Aimer's



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Tel: 01928 739796 Cheshire Brides, 1D Church Street, Frodsham, Cheshire station - just about to go down the steps when we were hit. I plugged into the intercom and saw Cartmell pulling the Control Column towards him, then a voice from the rear of the

plane said: 'We're on fire.' "Cartmell said: 'Put it out then!' Then to me: 'Pass him the extra fire squits.' I opened the door and squirts.' I opened the door and passed the extinguishers to the W/Op I think. Then Cartmell: 'Shut that door and jettison the load'. He and I, remembering the week before, weren't really bothered and I don't suppose Ron and the rest were. I pulled the Jettison toggle and nothing

happened. "The shots had cut the cable, so ! pulled the other one, containers and all, and it came away in my hand. Cartmell heard me on the intercom and immediately he said: "Abandon Ship! Bale Out!" I noticed Cartmell had taken his feet off the rudder bars and braced them on the dash board. He was pulling on the Control column with both hands. I reached up and got his parachute pack and put it right

way up on his knees. "I noticed that the small patch of bare skin near his cheek bone (between his helmet and oxygen mask) was covered in sweat. I gave him the thumbs up and he winked. We had been caught in search lights after being hit so we could see alright! I turned to reach my parachute pack – I had hold of it at face level

"When I came to, it was 25-35 minutes later. I was on a river bank which seemed to be in a town. I noticed the time because I was wearing my navigation watch and had entered the time on the log as I moved forward. Judging by my bruises and missing skin I figured J had been blown through the side of had been blown through the side of the cockpit. I was near an escape hatch which probably helped. I had a stiff neck. I had not unplugged the intercom when I parted company from the Stirling - the earphones and mike had pulled out of the helmet. A mirrede I hadn't broken my pack but miracle I hadn't broken my neck, but

# The centre for badminton

BROOMFIELDS Leisure Centre is becoming the hub of badminton for the Warrington area.

The Appleton centre is now home to the only junior badminton club in the borough. It runs on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 6pm, and is open to players aged between eight and 16 at a cost of £2 per session.

Further details are available by contacting Claire Wright, regional officer Cheshire 07901005314 or emailing clairewright@badminton england.co.uk

Pay and Play No Strings sessions are also available at the centre for anyone over 16, no matter what their playing ability. Sessions are organised by a friendly, Badminton England level 1 coach. They are on Saturdays, 10am to

11am, and Mondays, 6pm to 7pm, at £3.50 per session.

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# 'eat escape!

worse than all that, broken ribs, missing skin, bruises and such like, my Figure boots had been blown off! Fancy facing Hitler and his Aryan hordes in stocking feet!

"I have a memory that during the 25-35 minutes gap (unconscious) I had a sensation of falling head over heals continuously with a very bright light all round. I had felt warm and cosy - all these are common sensations I am told, when one is



Sergeant Ron Dicks.

close to dying. My parachute canopy was only attached to the harness by a spring clip on one side. The one thing that bothered me

(and still does) is "Why me?" The only satisfactory answer was from wise old Parson and Man 



of the World. Pilot Officer Bobby He said: "The Cartmell and (right) Stirling bombers.

something for you to do - probably only you can do it - and as like as not, you'll never know what it was." Perhaps the things Tim Fussey still

had to do were during his time as a

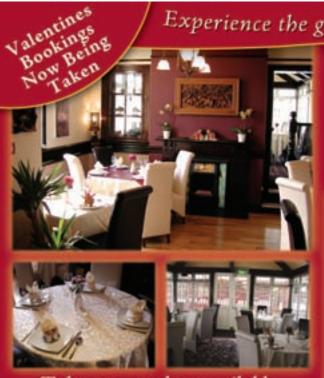
Had to do were during his time as a prisoner-of-war. He was held at the infamous Stalag Luft III, scene of "The Great Escape" – later to become a film starring Steve McQueen.

Although he was not chosen to be one of those to escape, he made the top part of the "Wooden Horse" - the vaulting horse used to conceal the entrance to the escape tunnel. He also exchanged letters with his wife which contained coded messages which provided the prisoners with vital intelligence of what was happening in the outside world.





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# Priestley takes the lead on international qualification

# A group of students at Priestley College who have become the first in Warrington to study a qualification with an international perspective celebrated its launch at a presentation and afternoon lunch.

The International Baccalaureate has been running at Priestley since September after the College was awarded World School status by the IBO in Geneva.

Priestley went through a rigorous assessment before being given the green light to offer the long established programme, which is respected throughout the world. It is also one of the fastest growing qualifications in the United Kingdom and Priestley has become one of the and Priestley has become one of the first providers in the North West to offer'it.

Students opting for the IB study six subjects, and a core, which encourages independent thinking, encourages independent thinking, social awareness and responsibility. All elements of the IB have an international perspective and offer students of sixth form age something completely different to traditional A-Levels.

As the qualification is relatively new to the community in Warrington, Priestley took the opportunity to welcome a number of important figures to campus in order to give them an insight into the programme. Those visiting included Warrington

South MP David Mowat, Steve South MP David Mowar, Steve Clarke (Executive Head at St Gregory's and Newman), Maggie Williams (Head Teacher at William Beamont) and John Sharples (Head Teacher at Sir Thomas Boteler). Members of the Connexions service were also in attendance alongside Jacky Forster and Kate Guise from Warrington Borough Council's 14-19 Strategy Division.

Carol Mtitimila, IB Coordinator, said "It was great for us as a College to welcome in so many people who have such a direct and positive impact on the lives of young people in Warrington. The lunch was all about spreading the word and gave the spiedding the word and gave the guests an opportunity to hear about the programme from the current Priestley IB students." Students who will be starting College in September 2011, can find out if the IB is for them at the next

Open Evening on Thursday January 27 from 6-8pm. A special IB presentation will also take place on the night starting at 6.45pm. All other information is available on-line at www.priestley.ac.uk



# The sky is not the limit!

'DON'T tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon'. This is the philosophy of Appleton Thorn Primary School, which has been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Inspectors' comments included: "This is an outstanding school. The driving force in its success is excellent leadership", "Pupils are excellent ambassadors for the school. They are articulate, enthusiastic and independent learners" and "the school is at the forefront of innovative curriculum design". Handbacher Jackia Stillings staid: "I am delighted and so provd to be

Headteacher Jackie Stillings said: "I am delighted and so proud to be able to share the results of our latest Ofsted report. It shows that small schools

have big ambitions that can lead to huge achievements." Chairman of governors John Warren said: "I am extremely proud that Ofsted have recognised the school in this way. In this school we have a big team - staff, governors and parents who all work together at the heart of the community to provide excellent, exciting and innovative education. We are committed to giving our pupils the best possible start in life and will not stand

still but continue to improve." Coun Sheila Woodyatt, the borough council's executive member for education and young people, added: "An excellent outcome. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you and congratulations to all the pupils, staff and governors for their continued hard work and commitment. Well done.

The inspection was carried out in November by three inspectors who observed 13 lessons taught by nine different teachers.



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### Motoring

# **Roadside killers!**

THERE is nothing more attractive than a tree-lined road. But behind the leafy beauty hides an alarming statistic - one in 12 UK road deaths involves a collision with a tree.

Research by the AA has revealed that in 2009 there were 175 fatal accidents involving vehicles striking trees - eight per cent of all road deaths.

deaths. Unlike road deaths in general, which have fallen by 35 per cent since 2000, fatal tree accidents have fallen by only 18 per cent. The unforgiving nature of collisions with trees meant that, in 2009, four times more motorists were killed after hitting a tree than were killed after crashing into a lamppost. In a sample of 10,000 car insurance claims, about 1 per cent involved collisions with trees. with trees.

with trees. In rural areas, the death rate from vehicles hitting trees runs at 12 per cent, or just over one in eight road fatal accidents along non-built-up

tatal accidents along non-built-up roads. Tree-related fatal accidents steadily increased from 214 a year in 2000 to 272 in 2006, but have fallen since. Fatal accidents with lampposts during the same period have nearly halved, from 77 in 2000 to 41 in 2009. Andrew Howard, the AA's head of road safety; said: "Too many drivers just don't understand that trees are among the most unyielding roadside objects. Trees hit by cars often show

little or no sign of even the most severe impact.

"Consequently, trees have been the nemesis of extreme driving - hit one at speed and you and your passengers will be lucky to escape alive. Too offen, when a driver speeds, makes a bad judgment and leaves the road, it is a tree that stops the vehicle in its tracks. "In recent years, moving lampposts

A new

back from the kerb and making signs and other man-made street furniture less 'hard' have significantly reduced casualties.

"However, trees, some with preservation orders and often immovable from the roadside, present a threat where the only defence is speed limits and road markings that try to influence driver behaviour."

# MOT changes

VEHICLES may soon not need an MOT certificate until they are four years old.

At present, a vehicle has to be tested when it becomes three years old and then re-tested annually. But the

government is considering switching to fouryear-tests, with re-tests every two years thereafter.

A NEW motor festival is to be launch in March, promising three unforgettable days for all-comers to indulge in the continuing love affair between the British people and the motor car

The first British Motor Festival is to be held at the Royal Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire, on March 11-13 and will run alongside the annual British Leisure Show, which attracted more than 21,000 visitors last year.

Event managing director James Brooke (pictured) said: "The new British Motor Festival

has been designed to provide visitors with entertainment, interaction, education, hospitality and a unique display of new and classic cars and motorcycles at a prestigious venue. The Royal Windsor Racecourse provides the perfect setting for purists to enjoy their passion, at a time when manufacturers and dealers are looking to engage with new customers. It's a great value family day out, and visitors can enjoy two exciting events for the price of one!" the price of one!

Features at the event include a Formula 1 simulator and a stunning display of Owners Club cars

Club cars. Headline exhibitors already confirmed for the new British Motor Festival include Rolls Royce Motor Cars Sunningdale, Morgan, Caterham, Squire Furneaux Volvo, Citroen Slough, Subaru, Isuzu, Triumph, Tesla Motors, Get On, Royal Enfield and Harley Davidson. There is free entry for children under 16, free parking and easy access from all over the country via the M3, M25 and M4. For more information visit www.british.hoirurg Show accurring it will be a day out for all

The entry fee will also cover the British Leisure Show ensuring it will be a day out for all the family





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Q. If you have a spare room in your house can you rent it out without paying tax on the income?

A. Yes this is true. Under H M Revenue & Customs (HMRC) "Rent a Room" scheme it is possible to rent a room within your main home and gross receipts up to £4250 per year are exempt from tax.

Of course, terms and conditions apply and you need to be careful to ensure you qualify under the scheme. 'Rent-aroom' applies to income from providing furnished residential accommodation in the taxpayer's only or main home. For the purposes of the 'rent-a-room' scheme, gross receipts include not only rent but also payments made to the landlord for the such as meals, cleaning, laundry etc) in connection with the letting.

The landlord does not even have to be a home owner and even those who rent property themselves can qualify under the scheme. However, you need to review your own lease or tenancy agreement to ensure it allows subletting. To qualify you need to be resident in the property at the time the room is to be let. The room must be an integral part of your main residence and not a separate dwelling.

You can let more than one room in the qualifying property but the rooms made available must be used for residential purposes. Let accommodation used as an office or for storage would not qualify for

exemption under the scheme. If you want to charge your lodger more than the exempt amount of £4250 you can but you will need to declare the income over and above exempt allowance on a self assessment tax form. allowance on a self assessment tax form. Alternatively you can declare all your letting income, ignoring the exemption and claiming any allowable expenses incurred in letting the property if this results in a lower tax liability. In addition to the tax aspects of renting a room the following points should also be considered:

considered:

- Ensure your mortgage lender has no issue or conditions regarding letting a room to a non-family member. Some mortgage agreements prevent this.

Inform your home insurance provider that you have a lodger. In some cases this may increase premiums, but if you do not disclose the information you could render any policies invalid should you need to claim

- Generally, standard home contents policies will not cover the belongings of a



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

lodger and most will not cover any theft or damage of your contents by a lodger or a

It is advisable to get something in writing between you and your lodger.
Take time to find your lodger and if possible set up more than one meeting.

pefore they move in. Dont simply accept the first person who turns up and can afford the rent. Remember you will have to live with this person in your own home, sharing common areas such as the kitchen and bathrooms. It is essential that you can get along

This article is only meant to inform, if you require more advice please do not warringtonaccountants.co.uk The Money Column provided by WatkinsonBlack Chartered Accountants,

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# Mountain trek raises £10,000



# A STOCKTON Heath family trekked up Mount Kilimanjaro and raised more than $\pounds10,000$ to help local charities.

David Jones, his wife Jeanie and their two daughters Abbey, 21, and Hattie, 18, scaled the 19,895m peak in Tanzania over six days. Previously David has run marathons and raised funds for charities. The family decided to have one last adventure together before the girls moved on – Abbey is going to work in Canada and Hattie is going to Sheffield University. **University**.

The climbers were only able to rest in the evenings at simple camp sites en route to the peak.

David, managing director of Fairview Windows in Warrington and Widnes, said climbing the peak was a "huge challenge" but the family thought it was worth doing to help charities that provide vital services. He said: "On the trek we overcame altitude sickness, muscle cramps and

intense weather conditions and the odd family spat. "Our training helped us tackle the adversities we faced and as a family, knowing that we had secured the all important sponsorship pledges made every step worthwhile. It definitely kept us motivated." The family were sponsored by friends, business colleagues and family to help

raise the total.

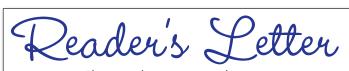
The money will be divided between Winston's Wishes, Help for Heroes and local organisations via the Warrington Grassroots fund.

# The hub of badminton

### BROOMFIELDS Leisure Centre is becoming the hub of badminton for the Warrington area.

Warrington area. The Appleton centre is now home to the only junior badminton club in the borough. It runs on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 6pm, and is open to players aged between eight and 16 at a cost of £2 per session. Further details are available by contacting Claire Wright, regional officer Cheshire on 07901005314 or emailing clairewright@badmintonengland.co.uk Pay and Play No Strings sessions are also available at the centre for anyone over 16, no matter what their playing ability. Sessions are organised by a friendly, Badminton England level 1 coach. They are on Saturdays, 10am to 11am, and Mondays, 6pm to 7pm, at £3.50 per session

£3.50 per session.



Please send your correspondence to: Village Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT or email: info@warrington-worldwide.co.uk

# A plea from the heart

Chrish Perera, British Heart Foundation

FEBRUARY is National Heart Month and I am asking you to help the British Heart Foundation fight the UK's biggest killer by organising a red event this February. It's so easy to get involved with Red for Heart. You can join National Wear Red Day on Friday February 25 or choose your own fundraising event - anything goes as long as it's red! All you need to do is order your free fundraising kit at bhf.org.uk/red or call0845 241 0976. There's never been a better time to join the celebrations and get involved in Red for Heart as the BHF celebrates their 50th birthday in 2011. So please join me and 'Be a port of Red for Heart' this February - because together we can save

me and 'Be a part of Red for Heart' this February - because together we can save the life you love.

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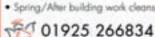


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